

1) Introduction

The recent “rediscovery” of the Strode’s School Staff Register Book in the Egham Museum collection after appearing to be lost for some 30 years has enabled the expansion and completion of this document, first started in 2019, to describe all known members of staff at the school from 1919 through to 1963, including all of the wartime temporary appointments.

The document was a statutory requirement of the Local Education Authority, in this case Surrey County Council, and is a government-issued book containing 120 pages, of which exactly 100 are used in this case, one per member of staff, plus two index pages. The information recorded is: full name, date of birth, date of appointment on probation and/or definitive, date of leaving, schools & colleges attended with dates, qualifications held, list of teaching posts held with dates, teacher training if any, external posts or work in addition to that at the school, subjects taught and those to which appointed at Strode’s, starting salary + increments, and post if any taken up after leaving Strode’s. Not all of the sections are always filled up, and the rear of each page is left blank; this is often used to detail military service of the appointees.

The book covers only the teaching staff, not the ancillaries; secretaries, caretakers etc, and seems to have ceased being used in 1963, but a slip of paper was found in the back, containing additional names from then until 1969 with just name and start/finish dates; a few other known ones in this period are missing altogether.

Our account following covers all known members of staff, including ancillaries, from 1919, who left the school at or before the end of summer term in 1959. Our complementary article covering the years 1959-1966 includes a section on the staff serving during those years, some of whom started as far back as 1928-1930.

2) The staff at re-opening of the school in September 1919

The initial teaching staff comprised the headmaster, two full-time masters and three part-time assistant masters:-



Captain James Mylam GITTINS was appointed as the first Headmaster and served thus until retiring in 1945. He was born on 18th July 1885 in Madras, India but educated at Pembroke Dock Grammar School, west Wales, then University College, Aberystwyth, achieving both BSc and MSc degrees. In 1911 he is at 59 Park Road, Sculcoates, Hull in Yorkshire with new wife Violet Mabel and her younger sister Gladys, both born at Pembroke, his occupation shown as assistant schoolmaster. By 1914 however they have moved to 31 Limes Road, Hythe in Kent. He served in the Royal Field Artillery during the Great War then returned briefly to his previous Senior Mathematics teaching post at Folkestone Grammar School before coming to Strode’s, where he also taught maths. His wife Violet also taught a variety of subjects briefly at Strode’s during the Spring term of 1920. In 1921 we find them on holiday at the George Hotel in Portsmouth, his occupation Head Master at Strode’s as expected. By 1939 they were living at Mann Lodge, Braywood Avenue, Egham with Violet now principal of a local preparatory school; one can imagine what they talked about over dinner in the evenings! After retirement he continued to take a strong interest in school affairs, until passing away in Torbay, Devon in the summer of 1976.

Captain Frederick Joseph SMITH was born at Hastings, Sussex in December 1888, educated at the Grammar School there and the University of Nottingham. In the Great War he served in the 4th Dorset Regiment from 1913-19. He was recruited from Bootle Grammar School, Lancashire to teach Science and Geography. In June 1921 he is living at 42 High Street, Egham with his wife Dorothy & daughter Elizabeth, with occupation Assistant School Master at

Strode's. He left later in 1921, going to a teaching post back at Hastings Grammar School, and was replaced by A. J. Philips (qv)



Leonard HEYES taught French, also sometime English, History & later Latin, from 1919 to 1947. He was born in Widnes, Lancashire on 1st September 1890; educated at St Francis Xavier RC College, Liverpool and Liverpool University. In the Great War he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps and came to Strode's from St. Philips Grammar School, Birmingham. In 1921 he is shown as widowed at the age of just 30, boarding 11 Hummer Road in Egham, occupation Schoolmaster at Strode's. By 1939 he was living at Sandown, Northcroft Road, Egham with new wife Dorothy and a son Leonard J aged 15 "at school", presumably Strode's. He was in the local Home Guard in World

War II, but took early retirement from Strode's due to a "breakdown"; he died locally in early 1954.

Richard Henry Johns CLARIDGE ("Foghorn") instructed in Woodwork on a part-time basis until 1923. He was born in Wandsworth, South London on 30 October 1864. The censuses show he had a varying career; in 1881 he is at 10 St Anne's Road, Wandsworth with his parents, father Thomas being a baker at the local prison; he is a Carpenter's Apprentice. By 1901 he is at 21 Trentham St, Wandsworth with wife Harriett, working as a joiner for the Co-Op and 10 years later a furniture dealer at 129 Kingston Road, Wimbledon. In 1921 at 73 Dorian Road, Merton, a Woodwork Instructor in Secondary Schools for Surrey County Council. By 1939 at the age of 75 he is a builder living at Capel Cottage, Ocean Drive, Ferring near Worthing, still with Harriett. He died there in Spring 1941.

No fewer than four short-term successors followed him for Woodwork, until H. E. Green (qv) arrived on a full-time basis in 1928.

John Edward COWLMAN ("Sealion") was a part-time assistant teaching Art from 1919. He was born on 22nd September 1875 at Eton, the son of a house painter & decorator, and educated at Regent Street Poly, London. He came to Strode's from Slough Technical College, where he was also acting Headmaster. In 1921 we find him living at 78 Hencroft Street, Slough with his sister Emma, occupation Teacher of drawing & Painting, employed by both Berkshire County Council and the Strode's Foundation Governors. In 1939 he is still at Hencroft Street, now with a wife Emma, occupation artist (painter). He was a respected artist, member of the Royal Academy and held several exhibitions of his work in London and elsewhere. He passed away in the Slough area in the summer of 1944.

Captain Henry William SHARDLOW was a part-time assistant for Physical Training from 1919-22, working also at Maidenhead Secondary School. Born in Leicester on 27th February 1867, he had an interesting life. At 14 he is recorded working as an Apprentice Boot Clicker, but by 1891 he had joined the Army and risen to the rank of Sergeant with the 1st Bt Coldstream Guards at Chelsea Barracks. In 1901 he is living at Upton St Mary, Eton with wife Alice, a local girl. His occupation is stated as "Drill & Gymnastics Instructor". Ten years later he is at 38, Alma Road, Windsor, "Teacher of Physical Culture" employed by both Windsor and Berkshire Education Committees, and an Army Pensioner; however he re-enlisted for the Great War with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers as a captain, 1914-19. In 1921 he is at 82 Frances Road, Windsor, "Teacher of Physical Exercise" and by September 1939 he is found at 39 The Chase, Uxbridge with wife Alice, his occupation Army Officer, Physical Training (retired). He probably cycled to and from Egham on the days he visited the school. With his army background, no doubt his PE lessons struck fear into lazy, slow or faint-hearted pupils! He died at Uxbridge in late 1945.

Frederick Joe HOLLAND ("Uncle" or "Dutch") was the first caretaker at the new school, from 1919 until his untimely death in 1934. He was born at Virginia Water in 1880, and the 1921

census shows him living in the “Caretaker House” (no doubt one of the almshouses) at the school with his wife Alice.

John Thomas HOWE was the gardener/groundsman from 1919. Born at Egham in 1864, in 1921 he is at 7 Bond Street, Englefield Green with wife May and three daughters.

3) Additional & replacement staff to 1939



George Philip POWLEY joined the staff just a few weeks after re-opening, in late 1919, coming from training at Goldsmith’s College, London to teach Geography, History and RE. He was born on 11th February 1895 at Ewell, Surrey; his ancestors were Flegg, East Norfolk Powleys until around 1770 and so may have been very a distant cousin of my mother’s family. His military service was with the 20th London regiment, 1915-17. In the 1921 census he is shown visiting his widowed father in Ewell, with occupation shown as Assistant School Master at Strode’s. He left in 1927 going to Alderman Newton’s Grammar School in Leicester, and in 1939 is recorded as a secondary school master living at 18, Meadway in that city with his wife Mary. He was however back in the Surrey area by the time of his death in spring 1941. He was effectively replaced by Lionel “Sticky” Stamp.



William Francis HOLFORD (“Squint”) came in 1920 to teach Science, and was one of the longest-serving staff, retiring in 1959. He was born in Headington, Oxfordshire on 29th April 1893 and educated at Oxford High School then Pembroke College there. He served in the Queen’s Royal West Surrey Regiment from 1914 to 1920, and in 1921 we find him and his wife Gwendoline living in part of the house “Kenley” on Braywood Avenue, Egham, occupation Science Master at Strode’s. His Science teaching is said to have been somewhat uninspiring, but he is chiefly remembered for setting up and running the school Boat Club from 1924 right through until retirement and maintaining a strong interest beyond. He was also latterly Strode’s House Master. In 1939 he is at Meadowholme, Thorpe Lea Road, Egham with his wife and a daughter Wendy aged 17 still at school. He was seconded to the London County Council for 3 years during World War II. Latterly Holford was renowned for driving an old Riley car, somewhat erratically in later years! He passed away in early 1978 in North-West London, aged 84.

Thomas CLAYTON (“Tommy”) is recorded as coming in 1920 to teach music and also some PE, staying until 1943. He was born on 22nd October 1888, seemingly the one registered in Aston, Birmingham and educated at Trinity Music School, London then Matthay’s School, Manchester. In 1921 he is with wife Susan, living with her widowed mother at what looks like “North (of) Runnemedede Road”, Egham but here claims he was born in Rishton, Lancashire like his wife! His occupation is shown as Organist (at Sunninghill Parish Church) and Beaumont College, Old Windsor, with no mention of Strode’s. In 1939 he is shown at 36 Runnemedede Road as a music master & organist with his wife. His was a part-time post, shared with similar duties at Beaumont. He composed the music for the “School Song” in late 1935. He left Strode’s due to difficulties obtaining petrol for his daily commute during the war, but continued with his work at Beaumont.

George COOPER born 9th November 1899 in the London area, came from Shoreditch Technical College replacing Claridge for woodwork, 1923-25 for 2 days a week at £1 per day. He went on to King Edward School, Mistley in Essex.



Stanley James HEDDON (“Froggy”) joined Strode’s from King Edward VI Grammar School, Morpeth, Northumberland in early 1921 to teach French. He was born on 12th October 1888 in Chideock, Bridport in Dorset and educated at Dorchester Grammar School and University College, Southampton. In the 1921 census (taken on 19th June) he is found staying with his widowed mother and siblings at 7 Denham Road, Egham, occupation Senior French Master at Strode’s. By 1939 he is living on the school premises (presumably in the almshouses) with his wife Violet.

Shown then as a languages teacher also a special constable. Having been “second master” (deputy head) for many years, he was promoted to acting head in 1945 on Capt. Gittins’ retirement, then reverted to deputy under Mr Brady from 1946 until retiring himself in 1949. He died locally in the summer of 1965, aged 76.

Francis Henry ROUGHTON was born 7th November 1862 at Woolwich, educated privately and at the University of London. The June 1921 census shows him as a Registered Teacher at Richmond County School, visiting a Herbert Doncaster & his family at 16 St Mary Abbot’s Terrace, South Kensington. He came to Strode’s reportedly from Christ’s School, Blackheath in September 1921 to teach French & English, but left after just one term; it is not recorded where he went next - he evidently moved around a lot!

Alfred John PHILLIPS also arrived in September 1921 to replace Captain Smith and taught Maths until leaving for a new post at Rutlish School, Merton in 1929. He was effectively replaced by A. Brown. Born on 2nd February 1896 at Altrincham, Cheshire, he attended New Mills secondary school, Derbyshire before brief Army service, then Owen’s College, Manchester; Strode’s being his first teaching post. In June 1921 we find him visiting a Sarah Kenworthy & her family at 27 Springfield Road, Sale in Cheshire, occupation “Manchester University Graduate”. In September 1939 we find him at 132 Keighley Road, Colne in Lancashire, by now a headmaster of a secondary school, with wife Gertrude.

William Newark SHARMAN was another September 1921 starter, coming from Brighton Municipal Secondary School to teach Physics, also some Maths, French & RE! Born on 9th August 1895 at Brighton, he was educated at the aforementioned school and St Mark’s College in Chelsea. The 1921 census shows him at home, 51 Hartington Road, Brighton, with his widowed father Henrick, a grocer, and an aunt, Rachel. As expected he is a teacher at the above school, and he has a younger sister, a teacher at a different school. He left Strode’s in April 1923, and again it is not recorded where he went next.

Harry HARDEN is recorded from January 1924 teaching Latin. He left in 1927 to take up a grammar school post at Westcliffe on Sea, Essex. He was born 19th December 1900 at Cockermouth, Cumberland and educated at Keswick Grammar School. He is living in at Bede College, Durham in 1921 as a teacher training college student and came to Strode’s from there. In 1939 he is found at 7 Southbourne Gardens, Southend

Reginald Charles DEAR was born 27th March 1902 at Hanover Square, London and attended Stepgates School in Chertsey. He came from Kingston Technical Institute to teach woodwork replacing Mr Cooper, from 1925-27 at the rate of 17s-6d per day.

Alan McKechnie ROBERTSON arrived in 1925 to teach English and French, also some History. He was born as Alan McKechnie on 16th October 1902 at Felixstowe, Suffolk and changed his name after his father died and mother remarried. In 1911 he is at 13 Hamilton Road there and ten years later at 6 Luans Road, now a student teacher at the new Municipal Secondary School, Ipswich, both with his mother Agnes, a teacher at Felixstowe Central Schools. He then

attended Birmingham University, and came to Strode's directly from there. He also left in 1927, going to Wallington County School, Surrey and is still teaching there in September 1939, living at 28 Wandle Court Gardens, Beddington with his wife Irene.

William Hutton EUSTON replaced Mr. Harden in 1927 for Latin, but left in 1930 to a new school in Lewes, Sussex. Born on 27th October 1906 in Ampfield, Hampshire, the 1921 census shows him there with father William, born in Egham, head gardener at Ampfield House, mother Alice and three sisters. He was educated at Barton Peveril County School, Eastleigh and Southampton University, coming from there to Strode's. By 1939 he is living at 30 South Way, Lewes, secondary school teacher, with his wife Ella. He is also a trained first-aider with the St John Ambulance Brigade.

Albert George WHITE arrived from Army service to teach woodwork, replacing Mr Dear at a salary of £60 per annum, thus still part-time. Born on 8th April 1888 in Battersea, London, the 1921 census shows him as a Quartermaster Sergeant, Royal Artillery, living at Range Party HQ, Greenlands Farm, Orcheston, Tilshead in Wiltshire. He stayed at Strode's for just 8 weeks in Autumn 1927, and was replaced by.....

Frederick PANTHER for the last 9 weeks of 1927 at £1 per day. Born on 14th May 1878 in Chelsea, he was educated at St. Mark's College there and came to Strode's from Aldershot County School. His address upon appointment was Glen Cottage, Winkfield. The 1901 census shows him at Putney and ten years later in Farnborough. By June 1921 he is listed at Dundon, Mapledurham in Berkshire, a house builder (employer) with premises at 94 London Street, Reading, with wife Minnie and 2 children. Evidently he was another who sought to supplement his income by teaching during lean economic times. In September 1939 he is a Clerk of Works in the building trade, living at Sherfield Lodge, Greensward Lane, Hockley near Rochford in Essex. He died at Kettering in 1955.

Hubert Ellis Green joined in January 1928 teaching Woodwork, now as a full-time post, and also took PE sessions from 1932 after gaining a PT teaching certificate from Loughborough College. During the second world war he organized and ran a Cadet Corps at Strode's. He was born on 10th November 1895 at Chavey Down, Winkfield (south west of Windsor) and lived there all his life. In 1901 he is at 1st Road, Chavey Down, with his father a life assurance agent, a Welsh-born mother and an elder brother. The 1911 census clarifies this as Ormonde Cottage, Chavey Down and the young Hubert is a wheelwright's apprentice; ten years later they are still there, with Hubert now a Wheelwright working for J.H. Turner, Carman & Contractor of Harlesden Road, Willesden Green in London, so presumably just visiting his parents on census night. In the interim he had served as a Flight Sergeant with the RNAS/RAF from 1915-19. In 1939 he is found at Chelstone, Locks Ride, Winkfield, now recorded as a physical training instructor with wife Joyce who was born locally. A fair way to cycle, but presumably no choice with wartime petrol shortages. He retired in 1957 but passed away in that area early in the following year.

Next to arrive in 1928 was **Lionel Stamp**, followed shortly afterwards by **Athelstan Brown** and **Johnny Bloomer**, all three long-serving masters at Strode's well into our time in the 1960s, described fully in our companion article on that era.

With the increasing workload, Headmaster Mr. Gittins found he needed to employ a secretary from 1928; **Henry James Kilford** was the first incumbent. Born on 20th August 1877 at Ryde, Isle of Wight, he is shown in the 1921 census at 6 Denbigh Road, Wallasey in Cheshire with wife Annie and 1 daughter, working as a Colliery Book-keeper for the New Moss Colliery company at their offices, 41-43 Castle Street, Liverpool. After Strode's, by 1939 they had moved again, to 1 Hollingworth Avenue, Manchester, working there as a house agent's cashier. He died in Manchester in 1943.

Alfred Harry DUNNETT arrived in February 1929 from Leigh Hall College, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex to teach Maths and Science, but stayed only for four months before moving on to Bishop Vesey Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield. He was born on 14th November 1903 at Maidenhead, attending the County School there and then Reading University. His address is recorded in the staff register as 71 Grenfell Road, Maidenhead, and he is there in 1921 with his parents Alfred, a publican and Annie. He stayed at Bishop Vesey somewhat longer; in 1939 he is living at 33 Boswell Rd nearby, with wife Ethel and a young daughter. He died in the area in 1971.

Frances Hillier TAYLOR arrived in 1931 to teach history and stayed for 9 years, presumably leaving for war service. He was born 9th March 1909 at West Buckland near Dover, and attended the local school then Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, coming directly from there to Strode's. In September 1939 he is listed as a secondary school master living at 45 Harvest Road, Englefield Green. He died at Tonbridge, Kent in summer 1976.

Henry DONALDSON ("Skip") was assistant caretaker for some years prior to 1934, and was promoted to succeed Mr. Holland after the latter's passing in that year. He was born in Newcastle upon Tyne on 24th April 1899 and in 1901 is with his parents at 79 Hannah Street, Elswick, his father a "Pumping Engine Man". Ten years later the family are at 31 Alnwick Street, Wallsend, with father now a store keeper at a nearby coal mine. Henry at least was thought to be living in Scotland by 1921 and marrying Hilda McAllister in Lanark in 1926. At Strode's he was renowned for his smart turnout in full uniform. Living at "Strode's Lodge" in 1939 with wife Hilda, he acted also as an ARP first-aider. He returned to his native Northumberland in 1946, replaced by Bill Peachey, and died in 1951 aged just 52.

Two more short-stay masters then arrived:

Alexander George GIBBONS stayed for just two weeks in early 1932. The staff register shows that many new recruits (e.g. those with little or no previous teaching experience) had to serve one year "on probation" at Strode's before formal appointment, and some, for various reasons, did not stay that long. He was born on 4th October 1894 at Witney, Oxfordshire and educated at The City of Oxford School & Keble College there, then at the London School of Economics. He came to Strode's from the Burrow Hill Colony at Frimley, Surrey. This was a sanatorium for the re-habilitation and training of discharged servicemen who had suffered from tuberculosis. The staff register does not show his subject/s or where he went next, but by 1939 he was lodging at 11 Stag Leys, Ashted, Leatherhead, a married Secondary School Master.

Reverend Clifford FERNIHOUGH managed just 4 weeks in early 1934, teaching English. Born at Cheadle, Staffordshire on 12th July 1897, he attended Leek High School, University of Manchester and King's College London. The 1921 census lists him at Manchester's Hulme Hall hostel in Rusholme, a student in education. He came to Strode's from Marylebone Grammar School and again there is no indication where he went next; however by 1939 he was vicar of Stowe St Mary Parish Church, Dadford, Buckingham and teaching in the local school, living in the Vicarage and also serving as an Air Raid Warden. He died in the area in 1953.

Robert Edwin STEPHENS came to Strode's in 1934 to teach Physics and Pure Maths, until the end of 1938. He was born on 25th July 1911 at Swindon, Wiltshire, attending the College there, then University College, London, coming directly from there to Strode's. The 1921 census shows him at 76 Goddard Avenue, Swindon with parents Edwin, headmaster of an elementary school, and Lily Mary. He left to join the RAF Training School; in September he is back at home on leave, with his parents at 41 Marlborough Road, Swindon, listed as a Flight Lieutenant, RAF Volunteer Reserve, and his wife Poppy. He died in late 1974 at Battle, Sussex.

He was replaced by **Oliver John LAWTON** who served until 1939, when he was seconded to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry. Born 13th March 1915 at High Barnet, Hertfordshire, he attended Southgate County School, then Queen Mary College & King's College in London, coming to Strode's from Wandsworth School. In June 1921 he was a hospital patient at St. Pancras, aged just 6. The 1939 ID card register lists him at 84 Natal Road, Southgate, a Technical Officer at the Met. Office, with his parents Harold, a railway clerk, and Helen.

He in turn was replaced by **Robert Edward Lewin** who stayed until 1948. Born 9th December 1917 at Tooting, June 1921 finds him at 57 Valnay Street there with his parents Herbert Edward, an Accountant Clerk with the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway at London Bridge station, and Minnie Lucy. He attended Sutton (Surrey) County School and King's College, coming from there to Strode's. In September 1939 he is living at 8 Avenue Road, Egham, Assistant Master, Secondary School. He served in the RAF 1940-46, and rejoined the service in 1948 after leaving Strode's.

Reginald Joseph VOISEY joined Strode's in 1937, taking English and French, with some Latin & History classes. He was born in Bristol, 18th July 1909 and attended Colston School and the University there. The 1921 census shows him at 34 Ashgrove Road, Bedminster with his parents & seven siblings; his father was a Carpenter & Joiner. Before Strode's, he had been teaching English at the Damanhour Secondary School in Egypt. In 1939 he is shown staying at 12 Cranford Gardens, Margate, a secondary schoolmaster, with his future wife Alice Dixon - they married in spring 1942 at Chelsea. Perhaps he was expecting imminent call-up? This did not in fact occur until 1941, to the RAF, serving until 1946, latterly as a Flight Lieutenant. He left in the Summer of 1948, going to the Tenovus School in London, but died very shortly afterwards at Chelsea, aged just 39.

Next to arrive was **F.N.F. Cope**, in May 1940; he stayed for 30 years and is detailed in our companion account

4) Wartime

The school was fortunate to recruit two permanent new male staff members during World War II who stayed for many years, but this was not sufficient to cover the absences of those on war service; so a number of temporary teaching staff had to be taken on for the duration, including females for the first time ever.

The two permanent Masters were:



Daniel James Walsh ("Tosher") who joined in 1943 teaching Science, also at various times Maths, English, French, Latin & Geography - a real all-rounder! Born in Dublin, Ireland on 2nd October 1898, he was educated in Scotland at Blair's College and at the Gregorian University in Rome. From 1917 to 1921 he served as a combatant with the Royal Canadian Army, the census shows him as a Private on active service in Wellington, Nilgiris, Southern India with the 1st Bt Prince of Wales (Royal Canadian) regiment. He then worked for the Fishery Board in Scotland in 1921-22. Following training at the Alberta Teacher Training College, he taught in Canadian schools for ten years, up to 1935. For the next eight years he was employed as a statistician for the newly-formed British Sugar Corporation before coming to Egham. In September 1939 we find him at "Riverview", Station Road, Cantley in Norfolk, technical statistician at a sugar factory, with wife Annie a schoolteacher. Leaving Strode's in 1959, he went to a teaching post with the London County Council. He died at Worthing, Sussex in September 1985, aged 86.



Gottlieb Iller (“Sid” *as in cedilla*) arrived in 1944 to teach Maths. It is likely that very few people were aware of his real first name due to wartime sensitivities; he probably called himself Godfrey. However he was British, born on 24th December 1907 in Eastbourne, Sussex; so avoiding compulsory internment; his parents were both German and so would probably have been interned for the duration of the war. The 1921 census shows that by now his parents had moved to 27a Kenley Street in Kensington, west London, where his father, also Gottlieb, was a Pastry Cook at the famous Barker’s store; he attended Sloane Secondary School in Chelsea. Going on to London University and then the teacher training College of St Mark & St John, Chelsea, he taught pre-war in various Middlesex schools. In 1939 he found is lodging as a single man at “Beazleys”, Chelmsford Road, Dunmow in Essex, occupation elementary school teacher. He married in Horsham, Sussex in 1942 and was teaching at the Oriel School, Hanworth before coming to Strode’s. He took over the School Photographic Society from Mr. Garnham in 1957 but left in 1959 “to travel the world”. He died at Weymouth, Dorset in January 1989 aged 81.

The temporary staff were all employed under wartime regulations which stipulated that they should give up their post to the designated permanent member of staff upon the latter’s return from war service. Those subjects considered “non-essential” such as Music, RE, Classics, Art and Woodwork were suspended for at least part of the war, the latter also due to the shortage of wood.

The first recorded arrival, in June 1940 was **Arthur Ernest GRANT**, to teach Physics & Chemistry with some Maths, replacing Mr Lewin, but he stayed for only 10 months. Born on 20th July 1889 in Bedwelty, Glamorgan, he was educated at Cardiff County School and the University there, then at Jesus College, Oxford. In 1921 he is an assistant schoolmaster at Okehampton Grammar School, Devon, living at Mill Lane nearby with wife May, and by 1939 he was at 19 King Edward’s Grove, Teddington, an unemployed lecturer & tutor, with a new wife Florence. He came to Strode’s from St Mark & St John College, Chelsea.

In May 1941 he in turn was replaced by **Edward William BROWN** who stayed for just over a year. Born 25th July 1899 in the London Area, in September 1939 he was lodging at the house of George Heiatt & his family, 27 Rushworth Roasd, Reigate, a teacher of Engineering. However he came to Strode’s from St Dunstan’s College, Catford, and left to go to Maidenhead County School. He was replaced by Bernard Cohen (below).

No fewer than seven new temporary recruits joined in September/October 1941 for the Autumn term, shown in the order they are listed in the register book:-

Miss **Margaret Evelyn FRENCH** from training at Royal Holloway College. Born on 14th January 1917 in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, the census 4 years later shows her visiting the house of Edward Burrell, Nunchan Cottage, New Road, Porthcawl with her parents Arthur, a draper and Dora. They had a shop, Regent House, West Market Place in Cirencester. They are all registered there in 1939, when Arthur is now a director of the company, and both parents are also air-raid wardens. Miss French replaced Mr Voisey, most appropriately teaching French, with some English and “gym” on a salary of £228 per annum + war bonus. She left in summer 1945, going to Devizes County School, Wiltshire.

Miss **Joan Beryl SAMS** also came from training at Royal Holloway, replacing Mr Cope for History with some English. She was born on 14th March 1918 in Whitstable, Kent, daughter of William, a publican and Linda May, but in June 1921 they are found at Sebastopol Terrace, Mythe Hill, Teignmouth in Devon, perhaps on holiday. In 1939 at Stanley Cottage, Stanley Road, Whitstable with father William now a market gardener and Joan a student. While at Strode’s she lodged

at the Railway Hotel, Virginis Water; she left Strode's in summer 1943, going to Oswestry High School for Girls, replaced by Miss Eldridge (below).

Miss **Marjorie Sylvia SLADE** joined from Wallasey Boys Grammar School to teach English, in place of Mr Bloomer. Born on 21st May 1915 at Stroud, Gloucestershire, she attended the High School there, and the University of Bristol, coming to Strode's from Wallasey Boys Grammar School. In 1921 she is with her parents, George, a pin-making machine operator and Elsie, at Ash Road, Lightpill, Rodborough. 1939 finds her lodging at the home of John Hollins & his wife, Oakdene, Wood Lane, Broughton near Chester, a schoolmistress. She left Strode's in summer 1944, replaced by Mrs Bunn, but stayed in the area, later becoming Mrs Doyle. She died locally in 1956 as the result of a train accident, aged just 41.

Miss **Phyllis Margaret PRICE** was the fourth recruit of the group, restarting Art after Mr Cowlman's departure, at £1-7s per day. Born 16th April 1899 at Kingston, she attended Battersea Polytechnic and the Royal Drawing Society, coming from St Christopher School, Beckenham. In 1939 she is registered on her own at 24 Park Road, Wimbledon, a teacher of Art & Handicrafts in private & secondary schools. She left Strode's in the summer of 1945.

Peter William JOHANNSON joined to teach Science & Maths, staying for just over a year. He was born 20th February 1911 in Australia, attending Melbourne University and came to Strode's from St Thomas Grammar School in that city. However his degree was found to be bogus, and he was dismissed by the local Education Board. He departed to Pocklington School, East Yorkshire, but was dismissed from there soon after!

Thomas Edward GREEN replaced Mr Holford for Science, including some Biology, again staying for just a year. He was born on 16th June 1904 but we know not where, due to the very common name. He attended Trinity College, Oxford and in 1939 was lodging in the house of a Stroud family, 1 Earley Hill Road, Reading, shown as married and a secondary school Chemistry master, also an air-raid warden. He came to Strode's from East Sheen & Richmond County School.

The last of this group, **Lewis George TUCKER** did not start until 1st October 1941, to teach Divinity, with some English & Philosophy. Born in Pembroke, 24th April 1882 and attending University at Cardiff & Liverpool, he came to Strode's at the age of 59 from Lord Weymouth's School in Warminster, Wiltshire. In June 1921 he is the Minister of Dunham Massey Presbyterian Church, living at Gifford Mount, East Downs Road, Bowden in Cheshire, with wife Dorothy & 3 children. By 1939 he has moved in the same role to 16 Ridholme, Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames. While at Strode's he continued to live in Walton, at St Andrew's House, Hersham Road; he left in summer 1945, due to the travelling distance, but also no doubt to retirement from teaching.

The Autumn term of 1942 saw three new temporary recruits:-

Bernard COHEN came to teach Science in place of Edward Brown and Mr Green, and stayed for a year. Born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa on 10th May 1911, he was educated at the High School there, followed by Rhodes University, Grahamstown. He arrived from Eyemouth Secondary School, Berwick upon Tweed, but was already in England in 1939, living at 16 Winifred Street, Fitzrovia in London, a lodging house, and teaching nearby. He next went to Caterham Grammar School, and was replaced by Mr Lamb (below).

Miss **Hilda Grace WEBSTER** arrived from Sir William Borlaise School, Marlow for English & Divinity with some Maths & English, replacing Mr Johansson and staying for 2 years. She was born on 4th June 1919 at Shepshed, Leicestershire, attending Loughborough Grammar School followed by King's College, London. In June 1921 she is listed with her parents, Francis, a

Foreman Lace Machinist and Elsie, staying with her grandfather, a schoolmaster, at Thrusington, Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake. In 1939 she is a student at home, 47 Arthur Street, Loughborough. She became Mrs Hester in 1943 and next went back to teaching at Leicester.

Frederick Charles LAMB came from St Joseph's School, Derby for Chemistry & Maths, staying until Easter 1944 and effectively replacing Mr Cohen after he left. Born 13th March 1908 at Spennymoor, Co. Durham, he was educated at King James I Grammar School, Bishop Auckland there and Hatfield College, Durham. In 1921 we find him with his parents, Fred, a coal mine railway shunter and Mary at 7 William Street, Merrington Lane, Durham. In 1939 he is a Schoolteacher lodging at the home of the Mallory family, 134 Littleover Lane, Derby, with wife Eileen and a young son. He is also an ARP First-Aider. After Strode's he went back to Derby, to a post at Bemrose School, and was replaced by long-serving Mr Iller (above).

Edwin Charles HOPKINS was recruited in May 1943 to teach Music, and this seems to be a permanent appointment as he stayed until 1948; he replaced Tommy Clayton. He was born 24th September 1905 at Portsmouth and was trained at the Royal College of Music. In 1921 he was with his stepfather Ernest, a Royal Navy Chief Petty Officer, and mother Ida at 300 Queen's Road, Buckland, Portsmouth and 1939 finds him at 3 Swinley Hurst Cottages, South Ascot, an unmarried professional organist. He came to Strode's from twenty years of private tuition. On leaving, he was seconded to Bletchley Emergency Training College, being replaced on a temporary basis by M. Cohen for one term only, then Mr Cranham. He died in late 1968 in the Bardney area of Lincolnshire.

Apart from Mr Walsh (above), there was just one new starter for the Autumn 1943 term:-

Miss Lilian Florence ELDRIDGE came from the prestigious Cheltenham Ladies College for 18 months, taking History in place of Miss Sams. Born 1st December 1918 in West Bromwich, she attended King Edward VI Girls School, Birmingham and Lady Mary Hall, Oxford. Her father Henry was an Army man, so they moved around a lot; in 1921 they are at 1 Elliot Street, Plymouth where Henry was a Landmaster Warrant Officer at RGA, Plymouth Citadel. Her mother was Alice Lilian. In September 1939 Miss Eldridge is a University student listed at "Melite", Harpenden, Herts, which appears to be some sort of hostel near the station. She left Strode's in the spring of 1945 for High Wycombe Grammar School, so there seems to be no-one to teach History until the return of Mr Cope a few months later.

September 1944 saw four more female temporary appointments:-

Miss Eileen Joan Mary PIEROTTI from Hitchin Girls School to teach English partially replacing Miss Webster, also some French and Art. Born 23rd November 1912 in Acton, she attended Godolphin Latymer School, Royal Holloway College and St Mary's teacher training college, Lancaster Gate in London. In 1921 she is at 2 First Avenue, Acton, with father Anericho, a wax doll maker, and mother Florence, an elementary school teacher. In 1939 she is a teacher living with her widowed mother at 669 Great West Road, Heston, Middlesex. She left Strode's at the end of 1945 upon the return of Mr Bloomer, and married Mr Hopkins (above) in 1947. She died at Lincoln in 1970.

Mrs Eva Grace BUNN (nee Dibben) came from Bromfield House School, Kew Gardens for French and English, partially replacing Miss Slade. She was born 20th November 1902 at Kingston, attending Twickenham County School and East London College. In 1939 she is with her husband Frank, a Stock Exchange clerk at 28 The Close, Lawn Crescent, Richmond, engaged in "home duties" with occasional teaching. She left Strode's in Summer 1946 and died in the Hounslow area in early 1974.

Miss **Janet Helen GODDARD** was born 18th December 1923 in Bradford but educated at Sydenham High School, South London and the Maria Gray College, coming to Strode's from there to replace Miss Webster for Maths. In September 1939 she is at school and living with her mother and sister at Northdowns, Hurstpierpoint Road, Hassocks in Sussex. She too left in summer 1946, upon the return of Mr Lewin.

Mrs **Leslie C.M. PEARSE** (nee Filbey) came from Wembley County School for Maths and Chemistry but stayed only until Easter 1945. Born 10th November 1920 in Camberwell, South London, she attended Sandy School for Girls, Honor Oak followed by LSE & Northern College in London. However the 1939 register lists her at "Gerron", Birdwood Road, Cambridge, a science student lodging in the home of Albert Birmingham & his family. She is also recorded as an Operations Clerk in the East Regional Office for Civil Defence; perhaps this was a temporary summer vacation job. She married Courtney Pearse in 1943 at Camberwell (none of the above documentation gives us any clue as to what her C.M. initials stood for!) and then lived at 32 Guildford Avenue, Feltham. She was replaced at Strode's by:-

Thomas Alphonsus NAUGHTON, born in Ballinasloe, Ireland on 9th August 1909 and attending St Joseph's School there, then the National University of Ireland in Dublin. He came to Strode's for Maths and English, replacing Mrs Pearse, from St Columnells School in that city and stayed until summer 1946. He died at Oundle, Northants in late 1981.

The final two wartime temporaries arrived in September 1945 and stayed for one year. Although the war was by now officially over, there was still a need as repatriation & demobilization of the Armed Forces took over one year more.....

Miss Winifred Hannah Jessie Harris BARNES probably came direct from training, but her subjects are not recorded in the register; she was born 19th March 1923 in Wandsworth, London, attending Swanage Grammar School, Bedford College London and Oxford University.

The staff register has an entry for someone called **AGNEW** but apart from the start & finish dates, the page is completely blank - perhaps he didn't turn up for work?

Ms Maryfield's book also mentions a **Miss Walsh** on the temporary staff from around 1943, taking General studies) but there is no record in the register; so probably confusion with Mr Walsh (above).

On the auxiliary staff, **Miss Coomber** joined as School Secretary in around 1943, probably after a long gap since Mr Kilford departed. She left in 1945 to get married. **Mrs E. WAGSTAFF** was the School Canteen Manageress from at least 1941 to 1958, then replaced by Mrs. Mitchell. During the war years, she performed sterling work feeding not only pupils and staff from two different schools each for three days a week, but also looking after the needs of the overnight Fire-Watching teams!

5) The Post-War years

Many of the new permanent staff recruits stayed for just a short time....

William TROTTER was the first to arrive, from September 1945, staying for 3 years. He was born in Armagh, Ireland on 12th January 1919 and educated at the Royal School, Armagh and Queen's University, Belfast, coming from there to teach Divinity & English. He returned to Belfast in 1948, to teach at Grosvenor High School there and was replaced by Rev. L.A. Preston.

Harold Arthur DOWNES came to Strode's in September 1946 to restart the Art lessons, but left in 1947; he was replaced by Mr Booth (below). Born 17th November 1919 at Reading, the 1921 census shows him at 79 Frithville Gardens, Hammersmith with his parents Herbert, a clerk at the Ministry of Health, Clement's Inn, and Lily Amelia. He attended Essex County School, Leyton in East London, and in September 1939 is recorded as a student staying in the house of a Slee family, 216 Wadham Road, Walthamstow nearby. Trained at the Borough Road College in Isleworth, he joined the army and came to Strode's from their service. From 1948 he served at Guildford Modern School.

The second 1946 recruit was **William Samuel WILLIAMS** to teach Classics, but he left after one year for a post at Erith Grammar School, Kent. Born 8th October 1914 at Llanfaelog, Isle of Anglesey he was educated at Holyhead County School and University College of North Wales, Bangor. In the 1921 census he is at Glyn Alyn, Rhosneigr with parents William, a stonemason and Jessie. He is still there in 1939, by now a schoolteacher, and his father is a bricklayer. Serving with the Royal Signals 1940-46, he then made a bold move to the Chateau D'Oix English School in Switzerland briefly before coming to Strode's.

Squadron Leader Denis BOOTH replaced Mr Downes for Art in September 1947. Born on 9th September 1916 at Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, he was educated at Hulme Grammar School, Oldham and Leeds College of Art, then at the Royal College of Art, London. In September 1939 he is at 229, Walmersley Road, Bury, a student with his parents Alfred, minister of the nearby parish church and Eda. In the war he served with RAF Bomber Command, earning the DFC. He left Strode's at Easter 1950, replaced by Mr. Caink.

Alick William WESTRUP also came in 1947 from St Alban's Grammar School to teach Chemistry & Biology, again staying until Easter 1950. He was also a local Scoutmaster. Born on 24th October 1910 at Old Hampton, Kingston, Surrey, he attended Spring Grove County School there, then East London College. In 1921 he is at 217 Hanworth Road, Hounslow with his widowed grandmother and various aunts, but by 1939 has moved along the road to no. 259, a chemist, with wife Edith, an army pay & records clerk. Alick served in the RAF during the war, and went to a new post at Portsmouth Technical College after Strode's. He died in early 1964 at Portsmouth, aged 53.

Maurice COHEN took over from Mr Hopkins for Music in October 1947 but stayed for only 5 weeks, being replaced by Mr. Cranham. He was born on 22nd November 1922 at Islington, London and educated at Owen's School there, then the Royal College of Music. In September 1939 we find him at 37 Earlam Grove, Forest Gate in Essex with his parents Samuel, a rent-collector and Jane. At age 16 he is a volunteer in a First Aid Stretcher Party set up to deal with expected wartime casualties. He served in the RAF as a Sergeant Pilot 1941-45 and came to Strode's from private teaching.

Captain Ronald Wilfred FRIGGENS taught Physics with some Maths from 1948 to 1950. Born 18th December 1922 at Camberwell, South London, he attended St Olave's School, Tower Bridge and King's College, London 1940-43. In September 1939 he is registered at the home of Stanley Charwood, a schoolmaster, The Bungalow, Hempstead Road, Uckfield in Sussex, "at school", presumably having been evacuated there upon the outbreak of war. Military service was with the Royal Signals 1943-47 and he came to Strode's from a post at Westminster City School, afterwards going on to a training role with the Royal Army Education Corps at Eltham Palace.

Norman William EDMONDSON was at Strode's 1948-1951, coming from Dagenham County School to teach French with some English & Latin. Born in Romford, Essex 26th December 1919, the 1921 census shows him with his parents at 9 Brentwood Road there; his father is a Milkman. He was educated at Royal Liberty School, Romford and was another graduate of

King's College, London. In 1939 he is living at 60 Stafford Avenue, Gidea Park in Essex, and wartime service was again with the Royal Signals, as a Signaller 1940-46. His next post in 1951 was at Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith.

David Miller CAINK taught Art for just the Spring term of 1950, replacing Mr. Booth. He was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire on 7th August 1924, attending Manorside Senior School there and later obtaining a National Art Teaching diploma. He came to Strode's from Simon Langton School for Boys, Canterbury, and afterwards went into the Methodist Ministry, replaced by Mr Rennick (below).

Derek Astin BARKER arrived in September 1950 to teach Physics, replacing Captain Friggens and staying for three years. Born 10th August 1928 at Todmorden, he attended the Grammar School there followed by Manchester University, then coming directly to Strode's. In 1939 he is a scholar at home, 5 Beaumont Street, Todmorden with parents Jack who ran a butcher's shop and Clarice. His next post in 1953 was at Dean Close School, Cheltenham and was replaced by Mr Garnham.

Eric Herbert Arthur RENNICK taught Art from September 1950 to the end of 1951, replacing Mr. Caink. He was born on 24th April 1915, possibly in Ireland but was educated at Salisbury School and London Central Colleges of Art, coming from there to Strode's with a teaching diploma. In 1939 he is shown as a commercial artist living at 2 Culverden Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent with his future wife Grace Chadwick, a typist & secretary. He departed for a new post at Bryanston School and was replaced by Bill Ashdown.

Frank Hayward BIRD arrived in September 1951 to teach French, replacing Mr Edmondson. Born 3rd November 1923 at Ramsgate, he attended Chatham House Secondary School there, followed by the University Of Southampton, and came to Strode's from Lycee de Tarbeq, France. he left in summer 1955, going to Chislehurst Technical College and was replaced by Mr. Hart (below).

Monsieur IRIART-SORHONDO came to Strode's from the University of Aix-en-Provence, France on an exchange visit 1952-53 to teach History.

Alan GARNHAM taught Physics from 1953-56. Born on 1st September 1928 at Houghton-le-Spring, County Durham, he was educated at Johnston School, Durham and the University there, thence to Strode's, where he also set up the school Photographic Society. He was replaced by Leslie Elliott, going to St Paul's Training College in Cheltenham.

Geoffrey John JENKINS arrived in January 1955 to teach English and French, but stayed only until the summer. He was born 2nd July 1928 at Edmonton, North London, attending Harrow Boys High School and the University of Exeter. His National Service was with RASC, 1946-48 and he came from a supply teacher post with Kent Education Authority. It is not recorded where he went next.



William HART ("Doris") arrived in September 1955 to teach French, replacing Mr. Bird. Born 14th August 1930, he was educated at Warrington's Botelier Grammar School and the University of Hull. He came to Strode's following two years National Service as a Flying Officer with the RAF, and after leaving in Summer 1959 went to a new post at Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith.

Maurice Clement ELSTON joined the staff in January 1957 from the Mary Ward Settlement, London teaching French & English with some Latin, but stayed only until the summer.. Born 28th March 1930 at Edmonton, north London, he attended London's University College School followed by the College of the same name. His was only a temporary appointment pending the arrival of Bob Tanner.

Monsieur ARARAS ("Arrow Arse" or "Bullet Bum") came on a one-year exchange visit 1958-59 to teach French.

Compiled by Keith Jagers, March 2021, last revised December 2022